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## REVIEWS

*The Spanish-American Reader.* By ERNESTO NELSON. With full notes and vocabulary. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1916. Pp. viii, 367. Price \$1.25.

The editor of this volume states in the "Foreword" that the reasons for its preparation are the present widespread interest in Spanish-America as a legitimate and profitable field for American enterprise and the almost absolute lack of anything like adequate information as to what the Spanish-American countries are doing in the present, or what they have achieved in the past.

These reasons are undoubtedly just. Many Americans are acquiring Spanish as a business asset. These and others, who study the language for practical purposes rather than for any interest in the literature and other things Spanish, are creating a demand for well-edited books of the kind that Señor Nelson offers in his reader.

The text is divided into two parts. Part I, in 37 chapters, deals with conditions and activities of everyday life. The discussion is in the form of conversations. This part is written by the editor himself.

Part II consists of five sections or chapters of varied contents, being short selections from representative authors of the various Spanish-speaking countries of America. Chapter I deals with the nature and physical aspects of Latin-America; chapter II with the life and customs of the people; chapter III is largely biographical, discussing briefly the life and character of men who have taken a prominent part in their country's history; chapters IV and V contain selections bearing upon the literature, the ideals and aspirations of the Latin-American peoples. Most of the selections in Part II are less than two pages in length, many less than one full page.

Very full foot-notes are provided. Grammar topics are not treated formally, but in several chapters of Part I special attention is given to the use of certain parts of speech, the use of tenses, and different idioms of the language. A valuable feature of the notes is the introduction of "variants" in explanation of the original expression in the text. Such expressions will be of great help to both teacher and student in furnishing opportunity and material

for conversation exercises. The notes are on the whole excellent, the translations usually well done, and the explanations given with good judgment. It seems to the reviewer, however, that the author has sometimes burdened the notes with explanations that were not needed, and translated expressions offering no difficulty either in construction or sense. In some instances the Spanish variant would have made the meaning sufficiently clear, without further explanation. I may cite as examples: P. 52, "a consecuencia de"; p. 83, "en opinión de algunos"; p. 84, "hasta ahora"; p. 86, "metros cúbicos por día"; p. 95, "no hay probabilidad"; p. 101, "la maquinaria más moderna"; p. 123, "Todo eso está muy bueno"; p. 176, "el más grande de los dos"; p. 177, "me cuesta mucho creer que."

The phrase "hasta la vista," translated in the notes, "so long," "good bye," surely ought to need no explanation to the student at this stage; neither "hasta" nor "vista" are found in the vocabulary.

In any book of this kind errors will unavoidably creep in. The following are rather curious: P. 113, note, ". . . from being," should be . . . *from having*. P. 143, "se consideran también como un espectáculo selvaje. Note omission of indefinite article." But the article is not omitted. Does the editor refer to some other word? P. 174, "Me tiene Ud. con curiosidad, *you have aroused my curiosity*. Note the introduction of the reflexive pronoun to imply that the curiosity was aroused by what had been previously said." *Me* is not here reflexive. The rest of the note lacks point. P. 240, "¡al cuartel el vagabundo! Note the use of the definite article, which makes the adjective more emphatic." The use of the article here appears to be regular. If "*vagabundo*" were vocative, the article would not be used, according to modern Spanish usage.

One is inclined to object to the translation of the phrase "a dos tirones" by "in two shakes of a lamb's tail," as suggested in parenthesis in the note on p. 99, and to the use of "innards," even in quotation marks, in definition of the word "*mondongo*" (in the vocabulary).

Another feature of the notes that the reviewer would especially recommend is the introduction, in the notes, of a large number of technical words and terms related to the subjects discussed. For example, we find such special vocabularies on p. 12, typewriters;

on p. 19, book-keeping; on p. 149-150, banking and business terms; etc.

In the matter of the Vocabulary the reviewer finds himself somewhat at variance with the opinion of the author. I agree with him that no modern language text-book vocabulary can take the place of the dictionary, and each student using this text-book should provide himself with a good Spanish-English and English-Spanish dictionary, and should in addition have access to the latest authorized edition of the *Diccionario de la Lengua Castellana* published by the Spanish Academy.

But the author says further that he has kept in mind the preparation and equipment in Spanish of the students for whom the book is intended, and he assumes that such students are familiar with the rudimentary principles of Spanish grammar before beginning to read this text, and that they have acquired a fairly extensive vocabulary in that language, which should include a considerable proportion of the words used in every-day speech. Such words have, therefore, been excluded from the vocabulary, except in cases where, because of unusual idiomatic construction or other variation from ordinary usage, it has seemed desirable to include them.

The reviewer cannot approve of all this. Very few modern language text vocabularies are made on such a principle. I believe that a vocabulary should be complete or there should be none at all. It should supplement the dictionary for the particular text for which it is made. It is safe to say that in no two classes using this text will the students have had precisely the same preparation or have acquired the same vocabulary. How then can the editor judge what words the student may reasonably be supposed to have learned, so that they may without handicap to him be omitted from the vocabulary. No two editors would agree on that point. In this vocabulary the number of omissions is quite large. Following is a list, which is not complete, including only such as a rapid examination revealed. I have not included the omission of such words as I felt sure that any student with as much as a year's preparation would be sure to recognize. They are not given alphabetically, but in the order in which they occur in the text:

Albañil, manzana, toallero, papel de forro, cuadro indicador, artefactos, acero, giratoria, balde, consumidor, encomienda, boga, horquillas, almohadón, jabón, algodón, estampilla, lente, cobre, empalmar, desembarcar, riel, afluyente, asunto, motes despectivos,

arreglo, liviano, prenda (the meaning of *pledge, security*, is not given), desaseado, invertir (the voc. has *investir*), cordillera, explotación, agotar, envolver, guisos, terciado, veredicto, previamente, estepa, hebra, naranja, enredo, azar, asustar (but *asustarse, to shy*, said of a horse), ancho, amortización, antemano, semejante, semejanza, política (*policy*), ambiente,, afines, varón, costar, suavizar, culebra, matiz, astro, labriego, asemejar, desarrollar, aldea, enredadera, colgar, desorden, árbol, oír, papagayo, roble, arroyuelo, ribera, aumentar, altanero, río, gemir, paloma, cola, azulado, amontonamiento, aplanar, arriba, abajo, paredón, cojín, pincel, campesino, pesar, pacer, hato, alelí, parásita, azucena, obsequio, botoncillo, alambre, compra, antepasado, abrir, suceso, cerdo, paisaje, agrupación, pescuezo, almidonado, actitud, apresuradamente, fulano, albur, alfombra, susto, agregar, joya, savia, carcajada, pomarrosa (not found in the dictionary of the academy), horadado, exprofeso, rayo, trascurso, recurso, respetuoso, lata, donaire, parandero, sencillez, mecha.

If the criticism which I have ventured to offer is justifiable, the errors may easily be corrected in a future edition. In all that is essential the book is well edited and is a valuable addition to our text-books on Spanish. The editor has done his own (Argentina) and the other Latin-American countries as well as the American teacher and student of Spanish a valuable service by its publication. It cannot fail to stimulate the interest in our neighbors to the south. The publishers deserve praise for the handsome appearance of the volume.

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*Zur Geschichte der westgermanischen Konjunktion 'und,'* von E. H. Sehrt. [Hesperia, No. 8.] Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1916. 56 pp.

It would seem as if the title of this commendable work represented adequately neither the character of the study nor its special value as a contribution to knowledge. All that the captions of the four chapters and a cursory examination of their contents suggest, is the morphological evolution of the West Germanic copulative conjunction *und*. The divisions, I. Entwicklung der Konjunktion *\*andi* im Gemeingermanischen, II. Die ahd. Konjunktion *joh* und got. *jah*, III. Die Entwicklung der Form *andi* im Westgermanischen, IV. *Anda, Ende, Inde* im späteren Mittelalter, indicate no more